Claims

1. A method of generating a broadcast from a broadcasting station in response to an input from a telephone to a computer associated with the station, wherein:

a numerical code is stored in the computer;

a telephone link is established between the telephone and the computer;

an operator of the telephone causes a signal comprising DTMF tones to be transmitted along the telephone link to the computer by selectively activating keys of a keypad of the telephone;

upon receipt of the DTMF tone signal, the computer transcribes the tones into their associated sequential numerical values and compares those values with the stored numerical code;

and wherein:

the computer sends a signal to the broadcasting station to broadcast a result of the comparison made.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the broadcast takes place in real time.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the broadcast is of an audio and/or video signal.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the computer is arranged to receive successive DTMF signals, from the same telephone or from different telephones, prior to broadcasting the result.

5. A method of identifying a numerical code stored in a computer, wherein a telephone link is established between a remote telephone and the computer, wherein an operator of the telephone causes a signal comprising DTMF tones to be transmitted along the telephone link to the computer by selectively activating keys of a keypad of the telephone, wherein upon receipt of the DTMF tone signal, the computer transcribes the tones into their associated sequential numerical values and compares those values with the stored numerical code, and wherein the computer is associated with a

broadcasting medium and is arranged to produce a broadcast of a result of the comparison made.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the computer indicates what correlation, if any, exists between the transcribed numerical values and the stored code.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the computer indicates a correlation only of the numbers and not of their position in the sequence.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the broadcst result comprises the transcribed numerical values.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the computer is arranged to broadcast any correlation with the stored numerical code.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the computer is arranged to receive successive DTMF signals, preferably from different remote telephones, until a complete match with the stored numerical code is received in a single DTMF signal.

11. A method according to claim 6, wherein the computer is arranged to broadcast the matched numerical code.

12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the code that is initially stored within the computer is generated at random.

13 A method according anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the code comprises four numbers.

14. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the result of the comparison that is broadcast comprises instructions that require a response of DTMF signals.

15. An electronic system for comparing a signal comprising a sequence of DTMF tones representing numerical values received along a telephone line with a numerical code stored within the system, and broadcasting a result of the comparison made.

16. A system according to claim 15, comprising a computer having a sound card responsive to the DTMF tone signal so as to transcribe the tones into an associated sequence of numbers.

17. A system according to claim 15, comprising a modem for use in effecting the matching of the numerical values with the numerical code.

18. A system according to any one of claims 15 to 17 wherein a correlation, or a lack of correlation, between the derived numerical sequence and the stored numerical code is broadcast.

19. A system according to any one of claims 15 to 18, for receiving successive DTMF tones from different sources, preferably telephone keypads, subsequent to each broadcast, until the stored numerical code is identified.

20. A system according to any one of claims 15 to 19, wherein the computer is arranged to simulate operation of a slot/fruit gaming machine, by depicting and broadcasting images of rotating reels in response to the matched DTMF signals received from the telephone, and broadcasting the result of a predetermined combination thereof.

21. A system according to any one of claims 15 to 19, wherein the computer is arranged to simulate a jukebox, and to broadcast songs, and, optionally, associated video signals, in response to the matched DTMF signals received from the telephone.

22. A system according to any one of claims 15 to 19, wherein the computer is arranged to broadcast replies to questions, subsequent to selecting participants by

comparison of responses submitted as the DTMF signals with stored values in the computer.

23. A system according to any one of claims 15 to 19, wherein DTMF signals from operators of two, or more, remote telephones are compared with a broadcast of successive stored values to detect a match therebetween.

24. A system according to any one of claims 15 to 23, wherein the specification of the computer is such that the DTMF tones received along the telephone link are detectable and transcribable using the sound card or modem of the computer.

25. An arrangement comprising a telephone arranged to generate DTMF tone signals by operation of keys of its keypad, a computer arranged to transcribe DTMF signals into an associated numeral sequence, a communications link for transmitting the DTMF signals from the telephone to the computer, and a broadcasting station, wherein the computer is arranged to generate and to store a randomly generated numerical code, and wherein the computer is arranged to compare the number entered into the telephone keypad, as transcribed, with the stored numerical code, and wherein the broadcasting station is arranged to broadcast the correlation, or lack of correlation, between the numerical sequence and the stored numerical code.